

HOUSE MEMORIAL 2

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

Joy Garratt

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT
A STUDY OF THE USE OF SCREEN TIME FOR INSTRUCTION AND
ASSESSMENT IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS AND REQUESTING THE
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR SCREEN
USE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS.

WHEREAS, research shows that excessive screen time for young children is associated with higher levels of stress, sleep disruption, decreased attention span and negative impacts on social-emotional development; and

WHEREAS, professional organizations such as the American academy of pediatrics recommend limited and developmentally appropriate use of digital devices for young children; and

WHEREAS, in many public schools, especially those facing staffing shortages, screens are increasingly used for tasks

1 that once involved hands-on learning, exploratory play and
2 direct interaction with educators and peers; and

3 WHEREAS, educators report that overreliance on digital
4 platforms in elementary grades reduces opportunities for
5 students to develop foundational skills such as handwriting,
6 early literacy, numeracy, problem solving, teamwork and
7 communication; and

8 WHEREAS, families and educators have raised concerns about
9 the amount of time elementary students spend on tablets,
10 laptops and online programs for tasks that could be achieved
11 through more developmentally appropriate, hands-on methods; and

12 WHEREAS, schools have a responsibility to ensure that
13 instructional practices support the academic, social, emotional
14 and physical development of students and are supported by
15 research-based best practices; and

16 WHEREAS, limiting unnecessary screen time aligns with the
17 goals of many school districts to improve student well-being,
18 increase engagement and support healthier classroom
19 communities; and

20 WHEREAS, elementary students are assessed using computer-
21 based testing several times per year, and mandated computerized
22 tutoring sessions associated with the assessments are also
23 required, which adds to students' screen time; and

24 WHEREAS, as required by the court decision in the
25 *Martinez/Yazzie* lawsuit, the state must determine whether

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 required computer-based tests are culturally and linguistically
2 responsive and appropriate procedures given the specific
3 cultural and linguistic characteristics of the children being
4 assessed; and

5 WHEREAS, as required by the court decision in the
6 *Martinez/Yazzie* lawsuit, the state must delineate the specific
7 accessibility features of computer-based testing to determine
8 what specific accommodations may still be needed by students
9 with disabilities as well as to determine whether a computer-
10 based test may create new accessibility issues;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative
13 education study committee be requested to conduct a
14 comprehensive study of the use of screen time for instruction
15 and assessment in elementary classrooms, including the impacts
16 of programs on student learning, development and well-being;
17 and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
19 department be requested to collaborate with families, educators
20 and administrators to establish developmentally appropriate
21 guidelines for daily screen use in elementary classrooms; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
23 department be requested to ensure that any required technology
24 use in elementary school classrooms is purposeful, evidence-
25 based, equitable and supportive of healthy child development;

.232810.1

1 and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the legislative education study committee and
4 the public education department for appropriate distribution.

5 - 4 -
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

.232810.1